

3 comprising:

4 a flexible base sheet having a first end forming a first end  
5 of the thermal blanket, a second end forming a second end of  
6 the thermal blanket, two edges forming respective edges of the  
7 thermal blanket, and an undersurface forming an undersurface  
8 of the thermal blanket;

9 the first end, the second end, and respective edges of the  
10 base sheet forming a periphery of the thermal blanket;

11 the base sheet including a first layer of flexible material  
12 and a second layer of plastic material co-extensive with, and  
13 laminated to, the first layer of flexible material;

14 an overlaying flexible material sheet attached to the layer  
15 of plastic material by a plurality of seals to form the base sheet  
16 and the overlaying sheet into an inflatable covering which has a  
17 plurality of interconnected inflatable chambers;

18 said inflatable chambers in said covering for substantially  
19 longitudinal disposition over a portion of a patient's body  
20 extending substantially from the pelvic area of said patient's  
21 body to the feet of said patient's body;

22 an inflating inlet for admitting thermally controlled air into  
23 the inflatable chambers to inflate the covering;

24 a plurality of apertures opening through the base sheet  
25 into the chambers for exhausting thermally controlled air from  
26 the inflatable chambers through the base sheet in response to  
27 inflation and erection of the inflatable covering; and

28 a seal between the overlaying material sheet and the base  
29 sheet around the periphery.

1 27. (Added) The inflatable thermal blanket of Claim 26,

2 further including a non-inflatable foot extension formed in the  
3 inflatable covering at the second end for enclosing and warming a  
4 patient's feet in response to inflation of the inflatable covering.

1 28. (Added) The inflatable thermal blanket of Claim 27,  
2 wherein the non-inflatable foot extension comprises the non-inflatable  
3 extension of the inflatable covering beyond the second end.

1 29. (Added) The inflatable thermal blanket of Claim 27,  
2 wherein the non-inflatable foot extension includes an extension of the  
3 base sheet beyond the second end.

1 30. (Added) The inflatable thermal blanket of Claim 27,  
2 wherein the plurality of seals are discontinuous elongate seams  
3 formed between the overlaying material sheet and the sheet of plastic  
4 material.

1 31. (Added) The inflatable thermal blanket of Claim 30,  
2 wherein the discontinuous elongate seams form the overlaying  
3 material sheet into the plurality of inflatable chambers, the plurality of  
4 inflatable chambers including parallel, communicating tubular  
5 chambers.

1 32. (Added) The thermal blanket of Claim 30, wherein the  
2 non-inflatable foot extension includes an extension of the base sheet  
3 beyond the second end.

1 33. (Added) A thermal care system including the inflatable  
2 thermal blanket of Claim 27, and further including:

3 a heater/blower assembly for providing a source of  
4 heated air; and

5 a connecting hose coupled to the heater/blower assembly  
6 and to the inflating inlet for conducting heated air from the  
7 heated/blower assembly into the inflatable covering.

1 34. (Added) A method of warming a person using a thermal  
2 blanket including an inflatable space form between a flexible base  
3 sheet and an overlaying material sheet attached to the base sheet by a  
4 peripheral seal around the periphery of the thermal blanket and a  
5 plurality of seals inside the periphery of the thermal blanket that form  
6 the base sheet and overlaying material sheet into an inflatable  
7 covering with a plurality of interconnected inflatable chambers, and  
8 apertures that open into the inflatable space through the flexible base  
9 sheet for exhausting air from the inflatable space, the method  
10 comprising the steps of:

11 disposing the thermal blanket to substantially  
12 longitudinally dispose the inflatable chambers over a portion of  
13 a patient's body extending substantially from the pelvic area of  
14 said patient's body to the feet of said patient's body;  
15 inflating the thermal blanket with warmed air; and  
16 exhausting warmed air through the apertures in the  
17 flexible sheet.

1 35. (Added) The method of Claim 34, wherein the thermal  
2 blanket further includes a non-inflatable section formed in a portion of  
3 the periphery of the thermal blanket, the method further comprising  
4 the steps of:

5 the non-inflatable section forming a non-inflatable foot  
6 drape in the thermal blanket during the inflating step; and  
7 using the non-inflatable foot drape, trapping and retaining  
8 the heat under the thermal blanket during the exhausting step.

Remarks

The applicants enclose a copy of page 671 of the Ninth New